

Independent Presbyterian Church

Birmingham, Alabama



THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 10, 2023

8:45 am

11:00 am

Service for the Lord's Day

The Gathering for Worship

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Grant us the gift of peace, O God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we be at peace with Thee and thus at peace in the warring elements of our own natures and at peace with our fellowmen next door and unto the uttermost parts of the earth.

from "Beginning the Day" by Henry Edmonds

PRELUDE - "Savior of the Nations, Come" Johann Sebastian Bach

The service of worship begins with the music of the organ. Through its power and brilliance may you feel the majesty and glory of God; in its quiet, His peace.

INTROIT - "Savior of the Nations, Come" from the *Erfurt* Enchiridion

From God's heart the Savior speeds; back to God his pathway leads; out to vanquish death's command, back to reign at God's right hand. *verse 2*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

(8:45) Marda and Allen Sydnor

(11:00) Will, Catherine, Anne, Bob, and Cooper Pringle

* HYMN 82 - "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" HYFRYDOL

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Clayton

Unison: Emmanuel, you love us, but we do not love you fully. You call, but we do not listen. In these hectic days, we easily become wrapped in our own concerns. We rush by those in need, and miss the sounds of heaven rejoicing. We are lost in a fever of busyness that has separated us from you. Confront us with our sin, that we may repent and receive the forgiveness that carries us home to you. In your name we pray. Amen.

A period of silence for personal confession.

* KYRIE ELEISON

**Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

* DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, this is the good news of the gospel.

People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

* THE PEACE

Minister: May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Minister: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

Please exchange the peace with the words, "The peace of Christ be with you."

* GLORIA PATRI (*The Presbyterian Hymnal*, p. 581)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Rev. Long

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM..... (8:45) Rev. Long
(11:00) Rev. Clayton

*** APOSTLES' CREED**

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven; and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON - Psalm 13 (Pew Bible, p. OT494-495)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

During the singing of this anthem, children K-6th may follow the acolyte down the center aisle to join Miss Beth on the Ground Floor (Room G20) for Nativity Choir rehearsal. Children 4 and under may go to nursery care.

ANTHEM - "Glory to God in the Highest"..... Randall Thompson

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill t'ward men.

Luke 2:14

SECOND LESSON - Luke 8:40-56 (Pew Bible, p. NT68-69)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON - HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS:

THE UNHURRIED GUEST.....Rev. Long

The Response to the Word

*** HYMN 610 - "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"AZMON**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS.....Rev. Seamon

* The Offertory Statement

* The Doxology (*The Presbyterian Hymnal*, p. 606).....

OLD HUNDREDTH

* The Prayer of Dedication

The Offertory Anthem – "The Blessed Son of God".....

Ralph Vaughan Williams

The blessed son of God only In a crib full poor did lie; With our poor flesh and our poor blood Was clothed that everlasting good. *Kyrie eleison.* The Lord Christ Jesu, God's son dear, Was a guest and a stranger here; Us for to bring from misery, That we might live eternally. *Kyrie eleison.* All this did he for us freely, For to declare his great mercy; All Christendom be merry therefore, And give him thanks for evermore, *Kyrie eleison.*

Miles Coverdale after Martin Luther

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done; On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts; As we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

The Sending

*HYMN 463 - "How Firm a Foundation" FOUNDATION

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE - "Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts" Camille Saint-Saëns

**Congregation standing*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO IPC! Please join us at the Welcome Table in the Parlor immediately following the service where we can tell you more about our church. We look forward to meeting you! For more information, please contact Stacy Pulliam at spulliam@ipc-usa.org.

THE FLOWERS in the church today are given to the glory of God and in memory and honor of loved ones, and **THE FLOWERS** in the Children's Chapel are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Alfred Shook Perry and Catherine Shook Perry Smithwick.

ASSISTED PARKING is available outside the Sanctuary 7:30 am - 12:30 pm. This service is available on Sunday mornings during Advent on a trial basis.

TODAY DURING SUNDAY SCHOOL, join us at 10 am for the Adult Christmas Carol Sing in the Great Hall. Complimentary doughnuts are available in the Parlor. Next Sunday, December 17, we return to the Great Hall to hear storyteller and member Dolores Hydock share "A Mixed-Up Christmas: Stories about Christmas mix-ups that somehow turned out just right."

IN THE PARLOR: After each morning service, find gift ideas that support IPC's mission and ministry. Purchase Giving Tree cards from Community Ministries and CFAF, select an IPC Ornament from Youth Ministries, and gift a choir CD or stained glass roundel from the Choir. Items are also available at the receptionist desk during weekday church office hours.

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY CHOIR REHEARSALS continue each Sunday in December during the 11 am service. Children K5-6th grade will follow the acolyte out during the music before the sermon to practice with Mrs. Beth. Pick-up is after the service in Room G20. All are welcome to join us at 11 am on Christmas Eve for this special family-centered service.

THE ANNUAL IPC CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT is this afternoon at 4 pm. The choir and orchestra will perform several seasonal works including the Bach *Magnificat* and Ralph Vaughan Williams's *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*. Invite your friends to this beautiful afternoon of music for the season.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

THROUGHOUT THE ADVENT SEASON, join us each Wednesday in December for a noonday Chapel Service followed by a light lunch in the Great Hall. Sign up for an Advent daily devotion from *The Eternal King Arrives* by Christianity Today. Register and pay for your lunch, sign up for devotions, and find more Advent offerings at ipc-usa.org/connect.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOME DEDICATION: Join our Presbytery in Pleasant Grove to celebrate the completion of this year's Habitat Build. Karla and Karter Tolbert's lovely house will be dedicated on Friday, December 15, at 12:30 pm. Contact Rev. Melissa Self Patrick at mpatrick@ipc-usa.org.

IPC YOUTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LOCK-IN: Students in grades 7-12 are invited for a lock-in at Urban Air. Drop-off is at 8 pm - 8:30 pm at the Childrens Fresh Air Farm (CFAF) on Friday, December 15, and pick up is at 8 am at CFAF on Saturday, December 16. Register at ipc-usa.org/connect or contact Cammie Ashworth at cashworth@ipc-usa.org. Spots are limited due to transportation.

THE IPC CHOIR FRUIT PICK-UP will be available on Saturday, December 16, at 9 am – 5 pm and on Sunday, December 17, at 9 am – 4 pm in the Garage in Highland Hall.

COLLEGE CHRISTMAS BRUNCH: Next Sunday, December 17, all college students returning home for the holidays are invited to brunch with IPC Youth immediately following the 11 am service. Contact Cammie Ashworth at cashworth@ipc-usa.org.

IPC CONNECT BEER & CAROLS: Join your IPC friends and meet new ones at our new location, The Fennec (1630 2nd Ave S). This special event will be full of Christmas cheer while also offering good food and beverages. Doors open at 5 pm, children's music begins at 6 pm, and classic carols start at 7 pm. Contact Rev. David Seamon at dseamon@ipc-usa.org.

CHRISTMAS EVE, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, SCHEDULE: All are welcome to the family-friendly Nativity Service with the Children's Nativity Choir at 11 am. At 4 pm and 6 pm, we will hold our traditional Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. All three services are in the sanctuary. Childcare is available for all Christmas Eve services.

IPC GLOBAL MISSIONS JOURNEYS 2024: The Global Missions Team is in full swing preparing for five international journeys in 2024. We have three new journeys: Malawi (February 2-9, full); Dominican Republic (June 15-22) – deadline to apply is December 31; and Nairobi, Kenya (most likely April 17-28). We also look forward to returning to Chiapas, Mexico (May 25-31), as well as Mwandu Mission, Zambia (August 15-28). If you are interested in any of these, please contact Tommy Thomson or Rev. Melissa Self Patrick at mpatrick@ipc-usa.org. More information is available at ipc-usa.org (Hover over or click on "Serve" in the menu bar at the top, and then select "Global Missions").

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

SUPPORT IPC'S BOY SCOUT TROOP 28 by purchasing Christmas trees, wreaths, and garlands during their annual holiday greenery sale. Visit scouttreesale.com for prices, dates, and times for three lot locations (Hoover, Vestavia, or Homewood), or click the link in the eUpdate. Complimentary hot chocolate and candy canes are available.

2024 ANNUAL GIVING: Join us to give generously as an act of faith to support the mission of Jesus Christ at IPC. Find pledge cards at the reception desk, or make an online pledge by texting FAITH to (205) 927-3100 and following the prompts.

SPECIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

IPC FOOD MINISTRIES: In honor of Doug Preston, Sarah Scruggs.

BAPTISMS TODAY

(8:45) **LEONARD PARKES WILLIAMS ("LEO")**, born May 12, 2023, son of Mrs. Giuli Williams and Mr. Jonas Williams; brother of Annabella Marie Williams; grandson of Eugenia Archetti, Ellen and Curtis Williams.

(11:00) **JAMES PEARCE PELHAM II**, born June 17, 2023, son of Mrs. Erin Watts Pelham and Dr. James Heath Pelham; grandson of Drs. Donna and James Watts, Dr. Charles Gayle Pelham and Mrs. Patricia Pelham.

Participants in Today's Services

The Rev. Kevin J. Long, Pastor

The Rev. Susan A. Clayton, Associate Pastor, Congreg. Care & Adult Ed

The Rev. David J. Seamon, Associate Pastor, Faith Formation

Dr. Jeff R. McLelland, Director of Music and Fine Arts

The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

Acolytes: (8:45) Andrew William Grover, Gavin Andrew Vanlandingham,
Olivia Ann Vanlandingham

(11:00) Katherine Evans Austin, Laura Elizabeth Donovan,
Stephen Christopher Tribble

Independent Presbyterian Church

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Office Hours: 8:30-4:30 except Saturday and Sunday

This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)

ipc-usa.org